

22. (Amended) The method according to claim 21, further comprising the steps of:
determining whether or not the electronic mail belongs to a predetermined
group based on the title; and
notifying a user of an urgent mail when the electronic mail belongs to the
predetermined group.

REMARKS

Claims 14, 15 and 19-22 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 14, 19, 21 and 22 are amended; and claims 16-18 are canceled. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

Entry of the Amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments:

- (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein;
- (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments clarify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution;
- (c) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and
- (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary.

Entry of the Amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. The Drawings Satisfy all Formal Requirements

The Office Action approves the April 23, 2002 proposed drawing corrections, and further requires a proper drawing correction or corrected drawings in reply to the Office Action to avoid abandonment of the application. Thus, a Letter to the Official Draftsperson is attached forwarding formal drawings.

II. Claim 22 Satisfies all Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to claim 22 for informalities. In response, claim 22 is amended to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection to claim 22 for informalities is respectfully requested.

III. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 14-19, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,948,058 to Kudoh et al. in view of WO 97/10668 to Kulakowski. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 14 and 21 are now amended to incorporate the combined subject matter of claims 16 and 17, thereby canceling claims 16-18. Accordingly, claims 14 and 21 recite an image forming means forming an image based on high priority e-mail data. This immediately notifies a user of high-priority e-mail data.

Kudoh does not teach, disclose or suggest "priority determining means for determining whether or not each one of the at least one set of electronic mail data has a high-priority based on a corresponding electronic mail title, and a notifying means for notifying the user of electronic mail data having the high-priority ... wherein the image forming means forms an image based on the electronic mail data which has been determined to have a high priority," as recited in claim 14, and as similarly recited in claim 21. Furthermore, Kudoh does not teach, disclose or suggest any subject matter regarding forming images based on high-priority e-mail data.

Kulakowski does not make up for these deficiencies. Likewise, Kulakowski does not teach, disclose or suggest any subject matter regarding forming images based on high-priority e-mail data.

For at least these reasons, the combination of Kudoh et al. and Kulakowski does not render obvious the subject matter of claims 14-19, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 14-19, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kudoh et al., in view of Kulakowski is respectfully solicited.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attachments:
Appendix
Letter to the Official Draftsperson

Date: September 20, 2002

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<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
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APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

Claims 16-18 are canceled.

The following is a marked-up version of the amended claims:

14. (Twice Amended) An internet facsimile device comprising:
- first receiving means for receiving by the internet facsimile device via an internet at least one set of electronic mail data attached with an electronic mail title;
- title reading means for reading the electronic mail title;
- title displaying means for displaying the electronic mail title that has been received along with the electronic mail data;
- data selecting means for selecting electronic mail data from the at least one set of the electronic mail data based on the electronic mail title; and
- priority determining means for determining whether or not each one of the at least one set of electronic mail data has a high priority based on a corresponding electronic mail title, and notifying means for notifying the user of electronic mail data having the high priority; and
- image forming means for forming an image based on electronic mail data selected by the data selecting means, wherein the internet facsimile device displays the received electronic mail title, and wherein the image forming means forms an image based on the electronic mail data which has been determined to have a high priority.
19. (Amended) The internet facsimile device according to claim ~~14~~¹⁴, wherein the priority determining means determines that a priority is high when corresponding electronic mail title contains a predetermined character.
21. (Twice Amended) A method of controlling an internet facsimile device, comprising the steps of:

receiving electronic mail attached with a header by the internet facsimile device from a remote internet facsimile device, the header including a title;

reading the title from the header;

displaying the title that has been received along with the electronic mail data;

and

determining whether or not the electronic mail has a high priority based on a corresponding electronic mail title, and notifying the user of electronic mail data having the high priority; and

forming an image based on the electronic mail ~~when requested by a user, which has been determined to have a high priority,~~ wherein the internet facsimile device displays the received electronic mail title.

22. (Amended) The method according to claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

determining whether or not the electronic mail belongs to a predetermined group based on the title; and

notifying an user of an urgent mail when the electronic mail belongs to the predetermined group.